

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 06984 030547Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
/066 W

-----064816 032109Z /62

R 030315Z JUN 78  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 687  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 6984

E.O. 11652/ XGDS-1  
TAGS: PEPR, CH, VM  
SUBJECT: PRC CADRE COMMENTS ON CHINESE RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM  
AND LAOS.

1. IN A JUNE 2 DISCUSSION WITH CONENOFF, THE CHIEF REPORTER  
OF THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF NCNA, SZETO KEUNG, COMMENTED ON  
CHINESE/VIETNAMESE DIFFERENCES OVER ETHNIC CHINESE IN VIETNAM.  
RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ABOUT AN EAST GERMAN NEWS ITEM  
REPORTING THAT THE PRC HAD WITHDRAWN THEIR TECHNICANS  
FROM VIETNAM AND WOULD USE THE FUNDS FROM THE VIETNAMESE  
PROGRAMS TO PAY FOR CARE OF CHINESE FLOWING OUT OF VIETNAM,  
SZETO STATED THAT THE STROY WAS CORRECT BUT THAT THE PRC DID  
NOT WISH TO PUBLICIZE THIS MOVE. HE THEN MODIFIED THIS  
STATEMENT BY SAYING THAT HE WAS NOT CERTAIN ABOUT THE CURRENT  
STATUS OF ALL THE TECHNICANS BUT HE KNEW THE FUNDS HAD BEEN  
CUT OFF AND WITHOUT FUNDS THE TECHNICANS COULD NOT STAY IN  
VIETNAM. HE ASKED RHETORICALLY HOW COULD ANY CHINESE WORK  
IN VIETNAM UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS.

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2. CONCERNING CHINA'S PROPOSAL TO SEND SHIPS TO EVACUATE  
THE CHINESE IN VIETNAM, SZETO SAID THAT THE PRC WAS PREPARED  
TO GO AHEAD ON THIS PLAN BUT THE VIETNAMESE WERE STALLING.  
HE NOED THAT OVER 2,000 CHINESE WERE CROSSING THE BORDER  
INTO CHINA EACH DAY. IN RESPONSE TO CONGENOFF'S QUESTION  
AS TO WHETHER CHINESE FROM VIETNAM MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROCEED TO A

PLACE SUCH AS HONG KONG IF THEY HAD CLOSE RELATIVES THERE, SZETO ANSWERED THAT THEY WOULD BUT, PAUSING, ADDED THAT THEY WOULD NEED SOME TIME IN CHINA FIRST TO RECOVER FROM THEIR EXPERIENCE.

3. TURNING TO LAOS, SZETO STATED THE PRC HAD BEEN READY TO EXPAND FURTHER SOUTH IN THEIR ROAD BUILDING EFFORTS IN LAOS BUT HAD TO RESPECT THE WISHES OF THE LAO GOVERNMENT AND GIVE UP THE PROGRAM. HE OBSERVED SYMPATHETICALLY THAT LAOS WAS UNDER TREMENDOUS PRESSURE FROM VIETNAM. CONTINUING IN A PHILOSOPHICAL VAIN, SZETO PREDICTED THAT SUCH A DIVISION BETWEEN LAOS AND CHINA COULD NOT LAST LONG. SOONER OR LATER A HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP WOULD EMERGE. HE ADDED THAT EVEN THESE CURRENT PROBLEMS WITH VIETNAM, VEXING AS THEY WERE, WERE ONLY TEMPORARY AND THAT VIETNAM SHOULD ONE DAY AGAIN TURN TO CHINA.  
SHOESMITH

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, EVACUATIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Subject:** PRC CADRE COMMENTS ON CHINESE RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM AND LAOS.  
**TAGS:** PEPR, EAID, SREF, CH, VM, LA, (SZETO KEUNG)  
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